

**THE  
BOOK OF JUDGES.**



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### I.

1. Now, after the death of Abraham, it came to pass that the people cried unto their officers and their judges, even the assembled wisdom of the land, asking who shall go up and rule over us?

2. And they answered unto them saying, Andrew shall go up; for so hath it been written in the law. Behold we have delivered the land into his hand.

3. And Andrew said unto Salmon and Gideon and the rest, even unto the counsellors which had served Abraham, Come up with me unto my lot, that we may rule over this people as it may seem good for them. For the counsellors had found favor before the people.

4. And they went up with him and ruled over the people, and they sent out word through all the land that the people do mourning in every city and in every town, and in all the houses thereof, for the lamented Abraham; And his body

was brought in procession through the land, and the people all came out to do him honor.

5. And when it was come to the land of Gotham, they crowded in the streets and on the housetops, and in all the public places, to catch but a glimpse of the body.

6. And throughout the land was a voice heard, lamentation and weeping and great mourning, the Radikels weeping for their chief, and would not be comforted because he was not.

7. And they brought him through the land of the Massasites to the far west, toward the land of the Minnesotas, and he was buried in *Spring-Field*, in the ground which he had purchased from the men of the town.

8. And thus did they delight to do him honor after he had been gathered to his fathers.

## II.

1. Now Hiram the son of Jesse, and captain of all the hosts of Colomba, was a great man and honorable, because that he had overcome the Tchivalree which had rebelled against Abraham and the judges of the land.

2. And Hiram was a mighty man in valor and fearful unto his enemies the Tchivalree, for he smote them with the edge of the sword, and slew them with great slaughter: Wherefore was he called Butcher by his enemies who liked him not, the Coppureds and the Dimmeekrats.

3. And Hiram had under him many mighty men of valor and captains of great renown.

4. And there was one, even Benjamin, which before had stood up among the doctors of the law, arguing aloud with the rest, and expounding unto the people those things that were written in the law.

5. And he was a great man with his master, Abraham, and honorable, because in him was no guile: Wherefore did he set him over a province.

6. And he stood upright among this people. He had no fear in him. Neither did he owe any man. There was no evil in his eye.

7. But this dark and sullen people murmured among themselves, and they that were rich in cattle and in worldly goods said one unto another, Wherefore cometh this stranger to rule over us? And they thought evil of him in their hearts.

8. Yet did they speak him fair words, and they said unto him, O master! wherefore have thy servants merited so great consideration at thy hands that thou comest thus far to a strange land to do them benefit? Do not thus violence, we beseech thee, to thy feelings, for we are not worthy that thou shouldst enter under our roof.

9. And Benjamin said unto them, Entreat me not to leave thee or return from following after thee, for whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy paper shall be my paper, and thy gold my gold.

10. And when that he had ruled well over the province that was given unto him, he found yet greater favor before Abraham: Wherefore was he made captain of a host.

11. And he went out to battle at the head of all his men, and they fell upon the enemy with the edge of the sword, and they smote them with great slaughter.

12. But because they had not obeyed the Lord they were not able to stand against their enemies, and they fled from before the face of their enemies, and thus was the host of Benjamin overcome.

13. And when once again that Benjamin led them out to do battle with their enemies, behold they had not yet found

favor before the Lord, and they fled from before the face of their enemies.

14. And now did those foolish people cry out against Benjamin because he had not fought against the Lord, and the wrath of Benjamin was kindled against them, and filled with a holy indignation he departed from amongst them.

### III.

1. And when Andrew went up to govern over this people he dwelt in the Kapitol by the banks of the river Po-to-mac, and while he dwelt there he ruled over the people in peace, as seemed good for them.

2. But he showed countenance to the enemies of the Lord, even to the Tchivalree, whereat the judges of the land were exceeding wroth against him, and they sware that it would go hard with their enemies the Tchivalree, because of the thing that they had done.

3. Then did Andrew wax wroth against the people which were judges of the land, and he cried out against them, and thus he pleadeth for the Tchivalree, which were sore oppressed by their enemies the Radikels :

4. And be it indeed that they have erred, their error remaineth with them.

5. If indeed ye will magnify yourself against me, and plead my reproach, know that God hath overthrown them, and compassed them with his net, with sore affliction hath he visited them.

6. He hath put their brethren far from them, and their acquaintances are verily estranged from them.

7. Miserable comforters are ye all.

8. Oh that my words were now written, oh that they were printed in a book !



## IV.

1. But the judges of the land answered unto him, saying:

2. Behold God is great and we know him not. His justice and judgment have taken hold on our enemies.

3. As man seweth so shall he reap.

4. This rebellious people must we bind hand and foot that we make them powerless for evil.

5. For behold an evil spirit possesseth them.

6. And they cursed him for an idolator and an apostate.

7. And they bore enmity to the chief ruler over all the land, and they held no peace with him.

8. And Andrew journeyed westward, even to the tomb of Stephen, the same which had been as a prophet unto the Dimmeekrats.

9. And behold great multitudes came to hearken unto the words of wisdom which fell from his lips and he said unto them

10. Hear me ye wisemen and give ear unto me, ye that have knowledge.

11. Let us choose to us judgment; let us know among ourselves what is good.

12. For behold judgment is not with your judges, neither are their ways righteous. Their works are the works of iniquity.

13. I only am your judge and ruler.

14. And his anger waxed hot against the judges of the land, and he was a man of fierce speech, and he spoke harsh words of them.

15. And the people which had hearkened unto him said

16. Behold this man speaketh sedition. And they turned away from him in disgust.

17. And as he journeyed backward to the Kapitol, yet other multitudes came out to hear those things he had to say unto them.

18. And he spoke unto them all those things concerning the judges of the land.

19. And some among them murmured to themselves, and others laid up those things that he saith unto them in their hearts.

## V.

And when Andrew was come once more into the Kapitol, the judges were exceeding wroth against him, and they rent their garments saying,

2. He hath spoken blasphemy: What further need have we for witnesses? Behold now we have heard his blasphemy!

3. Hath he not wished to stir up the people to sedition? And they answered, Yea, he is guilty of death!

4. And Andrew went into the Kapitol, and finding that his counsellor of War, even Edwinem, had denied him, and was gone over to his enemies, even the judges of the land, he drove him out in wrath.

5. And when the judges and the rulers saw all these things which he did, they were sore displeased.

6. And they asked by what authority hath he done this thing? Is it thus it hath been written in the law?

7. And then they said, If so be it, then shall we sign a law whereby we shall find occasion against him.

8. And the captains and the rulers and the chiefs of the people consulted together for a law, and they assembled together to the judges and said to them, O judges, live for-

ever! Behold we have consulted together to establish a statute concerning the thing that was done.

9. Establish this decree and sign the writing, that it may be well with the people of the land. Wherefore they signed the writing, and thus did it come to be a law for all the land.

## VI.

1. And now they sware that they would bring him to trial for the things that he had done, and a day was set apart by them whereon he should appear before them, to make answer concerning those things that they charged against him.

2. And when the day was come that he was to stand up for judgment, he appeared before them with his counsellors and his defenses.

3. Now when the friends of the Radikels heard the thing that they had done, they came every one from his own place, Benjamin the Massasite, John the Bingamite, and Thaddeus the Commonite, that was old and stricken in years, and he came as one risen from the dead.

4. And they made the charges which were laid to Andrew, for they had made an appointment together to aid in bringing him to judgment.

5. And when they had drawn up their charges, and read them aloud before all the judges of the land, and the wise men and the men of knowledge that were gathered together to hear those things that were said concerning their ruler, Behold the counsellors of Andrew, which were great men

and aged and learned in the law, pleaded his case with a loud voice and many arguments which were of great effect.

6. And when the people heard the good that was spoken of Andrew, they said one to another, Wherefore do the judges thus persecute this innocent man?

7. Is he not the annointed of the Lord?

8. Then was kindled the wrath of Benjamin the Massasite, the same which had been set over a province and was captain of a host.

9. He too was learned in the law, and was wont to expound to the people those things that were written in the law.

10. Now Benjamin had waited till the others had spoken, because they were elder than he: And he answered and said,

11. I am young and you are very old, wherefore was I afraid and durst not shew you mine opinion.

12. But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding.

13. Great men are not always wise, neither do the aged understand judgment.

14. Behold I waited for your words, I gave ear to your reason whilst you searched out what to say.

15. Yea, I attended unto you, and behold there was none

of you that convinced this faithful people of the innocence of that man which abideth at the other end of the Avenue.

16. When I had waited I said I will answer also my part, [ also will show mine opinion. For I am full of matter ; my belly is as wine which hath no vent, it is ready to burst like new bottles !

17. I will speak that I may be refreshed. If ye can answer me, set ye your words in order before me stand up.

18. My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart, and my lips shall utter knowledge.

19. I am clean without transgression, I am innocent. Neither is their iniquity mine.

20. But this man seeketh to stir up the people to sedition. He seeketh to lead them to revolt against the judges of the land.

21. Behold an evil spirit possesseth him.

22. Have we not heard him speak blasphemy ? What then do we want of witnesses ? Yea, he is guilty of death !

23. And the people cried, Deliver unto us this man that we may stone him, even the people which before had murmured against the judges for persecution.

24. Then rose Wilumem, the same which was chief counsellor of Andrew, and he said :

25. Behold they have set a trap for this innocent man ; even as before did they make him drunken with wine, that he might be as a mock and a jeer unto his enemies.

26. And because he has stumbled do they seek his life.

27. He is a plain, blunt man, that speaks right on that he does know.

28. Is it just that we pass laws but to find occasion against one another? Shall this just man suffer because of the craft of his enemies? Is not his heart found with the poor and the oppressed wheresoever they be?

29. And behold the hearts of the people were touched, and they cried shame upon the judges for this their persecution of an innocent man.

30. But now rose John the Bingamite, which was a great man among the Radikels, because he had made many speeches of eloquence before them, and he said :

31. Behold you have called this man innocent! Yet has he disregarded the law which was sacred unto our fathers.

32. Hath he not sought to let loose our enemies upon us? Would he not cut down the green tree of victory which has been moistened by the blood of good men, and cast it into the fire as one that was barren and bare no fruit.

33. Verily I say unto you he is guilty of death.

34. And the people were sore puzzled at these things that were said unto them, and they murmured among themselves, saying, When doctors differ, how shall we agree?



## VII

1. Now the number of the judges which sat in judgment on the chief ruler over all the land was fifty-four, whereof eleven were ranked among the Dimmeekrats, and forty-three which remained were Radikels.

2. And now that they had hearkened unto the arguments of the counsellors and the doctors of the law, the judges voted among themselves to find if he was innocent or guilty in their understanding.

3. And two-thirds of all their number was necessary to find sentence against him, holding him guilty before the people.

4. Now the eleven judges which were Dimmeekrats said We are just men, and stand upright before the Lord, concerning this thing. This man shall we find innocent.

5. Behold, if there be but eight just men among the Radikels, we can save this innocent man from his enemies.

6. But so many were not to be found among them.

7. And the Radikels, fearing disorder in their ranks, cried out, To thy tents, O Israel! and they withdrew from the judgment hall to weigh among themselves all these things that they had heard.

8. And when again they came together in the hall of judgment, and when all that sat in judgment on Andrew asked for sentence upon him, Behold there were found eight men among the Radikels which found him guiltless in their understanding.

9. And thus was the chief ruler over all the land escaped from his enemies.

FINIS.